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—Dr. C. O. Whitman, now connected with the biological laboratory of Mr. E. P. Allis, Jr., is to edit an American Journal of Animal Morphology, to be issued in two parts a year, at \$6 a volume, the first number to appear in January, 1887. The publishers are Ginn & Co., of New York, Boston and Chicago.

—Baron Mikluho-Maclay has just returned, says *Nature*, to Odessa from his journey to New Guinea, which has lasted two years. He has brought a large collection of rare fishes, lizards, snakes, insects, etc., packed in twenty-two boxes.

—While the subject of hybridity is attracting renewed attention from biologists, it is interesting to note the communication to the London Zoölogical Society of a case of hybridism between *Oris hodgsoni* and *O. vignei*.

—Capt. D. H. Murdoch, of Camp Douglass, Utah, was drowned June 6th, in crossing the Grand river en route to a camp in Southern Utah. He was enthusiastically devoted to natural history.

—Dr. W. J. Hoffman, of the Bureau of Ethnology, has received the gold medal of the Reale Società Didascalica Italiana, at Rome. The Society is mainly composed of anthropologists.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES, Oct. 6, 1885.—Mr. Morris remarked that four successive ideas seem to have ruled in the development of animal forms, viz: (1) soft bodies; (2) armored bodies; (3) swift motion; (4) intelligence. It is probable that the primitive animals were all soft-bodied, with only the tentacle, thread-cell, etc., for their weapons. The oldest fossils are for the most part those of armored animals; but later on swift flight and swift pursuit were the chief methods of attack and defence, and claws were added to teeth as assaulting weapons. Still later, intelligence culminated in man. We have now on earth an epitome of the four methods.

Mr. Redfield accounted for the obscurity of the traces of glacial action in the vicinity of Mt. Desert by the theory that the region had been submerged long enough to remove the striæ from the softer rock.

Oct. 13.—Mr. J. A. Redfield described the topography of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket in connection with the flora of those islands. The general character of the flora of the central part of the former is much like that on the summit of the divides in Southern New Jersey. In Nantucket many large patches of *Corema conradi* exist, also three species of *Erica* which seem to be indigenous.

Oct. 20.—A paper by W. N. Lockington called attention to the effects of the compression of strata by superincumbent weight, and suggested that when in a delta vegetable remains were found below the surface of the sea, it might probably be owing to this cause.

Mr. Meehan instanced a case in which the half of the tubers from a pink variety of potato were white, as an example of the spontaneous occurrence of variation.

Oct. 27.—Mr. J. A. Ryder made some remarks upon a new theory which supposed that the original gastrula mouth became elongated into the primitive streak, from the edges of which muscular segments or myotomes were developed. He also called attention to certain embryological peculiarities which evidenced relationship between the Batrachia and the marsipobranchs.

Dr. H. C. Wood gave the results of experiments upon the effect of injecting gastric juice. This produced fever, and it was found that the heat of the body was inverse to the amount of heat given off. Several papers upon fishes were presented for publication.

Nov. 7.—Mr. Redfield stated that the handling of the wild parsnip produced upon a relative of his the same effect as poison ivy.

Mr. Meehan referred to cases of the poisoning of children which seemed traceable to the wild parsnip.

In a discussion upon the change of color in leaves Mr. Meehan remarked that trees brought to America from abroad will, for several years, remain green till the end of the season, but eventually their high vitality will be checked, and the color will commence to change in autumn.

Nov. 10.—Dr. H. Allen called attention to changes in the form of limb bones depending upon the weights they bear. The sloth, bat and seal, different though their habits and limbs are, agree in placing no compression upon the bones of the hinder limb, and in all three the neck of the femur is shortened and its shaft flattened, while the astragalus is lengthened. The direction of the condyles of the femur has constant relation to the weight supported. The effects of suspension were also considered.

Professor Heilprin stated that a second lot of fossils received from the ferruginous sand near Wilkesbarre proved conclusively that the geological horizon is the Upper Carboniferous and not the Permian. The presence of trilobites proves this.

Dr. Leidy stated that Mr. Holman, while studying *Amœbæ*, had observed one burst and disappear. Very small *Amœbæ* were afterwards found on the slide. This seems to indicate reproduction by spores as well as by division.

Mr. Willcox stated, as the result of experiment, that the seven-

teen-year locust did not bore in a tree-trunk a separate depository for each egg.

Nov. 24.—Dr. Koenig announced that the diatoms found in the blue clay bed in the railway cutting near Gray's Ferry road seemed to evidence the Tertiary origin of the clay.

Professor Heilprin called attention to an example of *Conorbis* from the Oligocene of Florida. It has characters which separate it from other forms, and as it is very large, six inches in length, he proposed the name *princeps*.

Dr. G. H. Horn described a large blind wood-boring beetle from the Colorado desert. It is two inches long and is the largest blind beetle yet known.

Mr. T. D. Rand presented a paper entitled "Notes on the La Fayette Serpentine Belt."

Dec. 3.—Mr. Meehan exhibited seeds of the honey locust of a light-gray or whitish tint. Hybridity could not be the cause, as there is but one species.

Dec. 8.—Mr. E. F. Moody read a paper upon the shoaling of the Delaware opposite Philadelphia. He showed that the Philadelphia channel had shoaled twenty feet in forty years, while the Camden channel had improved. From the increased rapidity of the current on the Camden side, Cooper's point is threatened. It is probable that the river once flowed east of the present site of Camden, Fisher's cove perhaps indicating the commencement of the old channel. A dyke and wall are now building from Fisher's point to the point of Petty's island in order to divert the main current into the Philadelphia channel.

Mr. S. F. Aaron presented a paper on some new Psocidæ.

Dec. 15.—Mr. Morris continued his remarks upon methods of defence in animals, and pointed out that in the otherwise defenceless sponges the size of the exhalent orifices was a defence, while the minuteness of the inhalent orifices gave the sponge greater opportunity for the capture of its microscopic food.

Dec. 22.—Dr. Leidy called attention to the fact that living worms might be contained in ice that is full of air bubbles and water drops. They soon die in the melting water. The little worms found by the speaker seemed to be of an undescribed species, and were named by him *Lumbricus glacialis*.

Mr. C. McCormick described some masses of biotite found in granite at Craftsbury, Vt. They are more or less flattened and elongated, the material being in concentric layers. The cavities in which these inclusions occur are usually lined with biotite.

Jan. 5, 1886.—Dr. Koenig stated that no less than fifteen genera of diatoms had been found in the blue clay at Gray's Ferry bridge, which was almost as rich in these organisms as the celebrated Richmond earth.

Professor Heilprin gave the name *Saginopteris problematicus* to

a fossil plant which seemed in some respects to resemble a calamite, in others a fern.

Mr. Holstein stated that in certain cultivated portions of Northern Texas streams which once dried up now run during the year. This was referred to the more even absorption of the rainfall consequent on cultivation.

Jan. 19.—Dr. Leidy named *Mastodon floridanus*¹ from certain peculiarities of a last inferior molar, and stated that in a collection recently received from Florida were numerous bones of a rhinoceros, bones apparently indicating three species of llama and an ankle bone of a Megatherium.

Professor Heilprin called attention to fossil shells which indicate the existence of Claiborne beds in San Augustin county, Texas; also to nummulites from Northern Florida.

Feb. 23.—Dr. Leidy described the results of caries in the tooth of *Mastodon floridanus*, and also described a huge hog-like animal from a fragment of a tusk found with the mastodon teeth.

Dr. Rominger presented for publication a paper upon Stromatopora and its allies, and Mr. Chas. Morris another upon the "Phenomena of reversed vision."

THE INDIANA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE held its field meeting at Brookville, May 20 and 21.

Thursday evening, May 20, the Academy was welcomed by D. W. McKee, President of the Brookville Society of Natural History. To this Professor D. S. Jordan, president of the academy, responded. Professor J. C. Branner delivered an address entitled, "The relations now existing between the geologists and the people."

Friday evening, May 21.—Professor D. S. Jordan gave an address on "Darwin," which was discussed by Professor D. W. Dennis. Professor Jordan then spoke on "How to catch fish." Professor Branner gave an account of some methods of collecting corals. Professor P. S. Baker spoke on "The progress of toxicology."

The next meeting of the Academy will be held in Indianapolis in December.

¹ This form has probably been already described in the NATURALIST for 1884 as a variety of *M. angustidens*.—Ed.